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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Zuniga-Ortiz, et al.

Docket No.: TI-33986

Serial No.: 10/057,138

Examiner: Thai, Luan C.

Filed: 01/25/02

Art Unit: 2827

For: Flip-Chip Without Bumps and Polymer for Board Assembly

Second Election with Traverse

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

MAILING CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(A)

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4-11-03

Michael K. Skrehot, Reg. No. 36,682

Dear Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are offered in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated 03/12/2003. They are respectfully submitted as a full and complete response to that Action.

The Examiner has further restricted prosecution in this application to one of the species of the claimed invention:

Embodiment 1 of Figures 2-3.

Embodiment 2 of Figure 5.

Embodiment 3 of Figures 6A-6B.

Embodiment 4 of Figures 7A-7B-7C.

Embodiment 5 of Figure 8.

Embodiment 6 of Figure 9.

Embodiment 7 of Figure 10.

Provisional Election

Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 22, and 23 directed to the species of Embodiment 1.

Traversal of Restriction Requirement

35 U.S.C. Sec. 1.141(a) states that "[t]wo or more independent and distinct inventions may not be claimed in one national application, except that more than one species of an invention, not to exceed a reasonable number, may be specifically claimed in different claims in one national application, provided the application also includes an allowable claim generic to all the claimed species and all the claims to species in excess of one are written in dependent form (§ 1.75) or otherwise include all the limitations of the generic claim." The restriction requirement is based on the Examiner's assertion that no generic claim currently exists. Applicant traverses the requirement. Claim 1 is of course generic to the inventions claimed in dependent claims 2-23. In addition, Claim 1 is generic to the inventions claimed in Claims 24, so it follows that it is generic to dependent Claim 25 as well. Specifically, Claim 1 includes the features of "a semiconductor chip having a planar active surface including an integrated circuit protected by an inorganic overcoat, said circuit having metallization patterns including a plurality of contact pads; each of said contact pads having an added conductive layer on said metallization, said added layer having a conformal surface adjacent said chip, including peripheral portions of said overcoat, and a planar outer surface, said outer surface suitable to form metallurgical bonds without melting." Compare Claim 24, which differs only by including an organic protective overcoat in addition to the inorganic protective overcoat described in Claim 1. Thus, Claim 1 is generic to Claim 24.

Compare also Claim 26, which differs from Claim 1 only in the deletion of the words "including peripheral portions of said overcoat" and by addition of the last two clauses of the claim, that is, "an assembly board having a plurality of

planar, metallurgically bondable terminal pads . . ." and the limitation wherein "said chip metallurgically bonded to said board"

For these reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is generic to at least Claims 2-25 and arguably to Claims 26-31 as well. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the restriction requirement and maintain pendency in the application of all of Claims 1-31.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

Respectfully submitted,



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